



MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER
COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

CHAIR, TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE,
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

August 11, 2011

Mr. Chris Barclay, President
Montgomery County Board of Education
Members of the Board of Education
850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Barclay and Members of the Board:

I recently met with members of the North Chevy Chase community regarding their concerns related to pedestrian safety in the area of North Chevy Chase Elementary School. To address areas that are particularly problematic, I was pleased to convene a meeting of the residents of North Chevy Chase and the appropriate DOT staff to begin finding solutions to some of the traffic conditions that pose such a threat to pedestrian safety.

One concern of theirs that I hope you will share is the intersection of Manor and Jones Bridge Roads near the elementary school. I know that student safety is a paramount concern of yours and the Board's, and am grateful that you have given consideration to this community's request for an additional crossing guard at this intersection in the past. I understand, however, that it was concluded an additional crossing guard was not necessary due to the low number of students crossing at this intersection. I would request that you reconsider this issue in light of today's entirely different, and far more challenging, situation.

As you may know, due to the impending Base and Realignment and Closure (BRAC) of Walter Reed Medical Center, the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda is expected to see 2,500 new employees and could see up to a million visitors a year, starting next month. The residents of North Chevy Chase find themselves practically at the epicenter of this new traffic activity. The intersection of Manor and Jones Bridge Roads is already quite dangerous, as cars routinely fail to yield to pedestrians and speed over the hill on Manor Road. The community and I fear that the additional traffic sure to be caused by BRAC, once added to the mix, will create an even more dangerous scenario in which students attempt to cross the street to get to school. It is this exacerbated danger, along with the additional students walking to the bus for the Gifted and Talented Programs that were not considered in the community's previous request, that makes this request for reconsideration so compelling.

Again, I thank you for the continued importance you place on our student's safety and I hope that you will join me in supporting the North Chevy Chase community's request for an additional crossing guard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Berliner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Berliner" clearly distinguishable.

Roger Berliner
District 1

CC: Dr. Joshua Starr, Superintendent, Montgomery County Public Schools
Tom Manger, Chief, Montgomery County Police Department
Russ Hamill, Commander, Montgomery County Police Department
Arthur Holmes, Director, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Phil Alperson, Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator
Fred Lees, Traffic Engineer, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Sarah Quast, Chair, North Chevy Chase Pedestrian Safety Committee
Kate Barnes, President, North Chevy Chase Elementary School PTA
Eric Peek, President, Coquelin Run Citizen's Association
Craig Brown, Cluster Co-Coordinator, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Cluster